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Tuesday, May 17, 2011
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News worth sharing.

BORN THIS WAY:

'Let identity be your religion'

ALEX MAGUIRE/METRO WORLD NEWS

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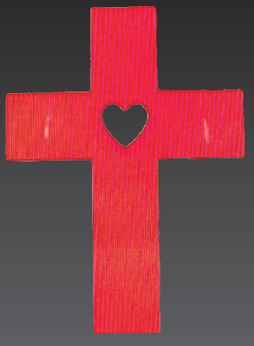

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ALEX MAGUIRE

Our editor-in-chief Lady Gaga with her editorial assistant, Jeroen Engelen.

From the desk of the editor

Dear Monsters,

Let Your Identity Be Your Religion.

I am so very honoured and proud to be the editor-in-chief of Metro for the day. Not only because I can speak with you directly, but because I wish to illuminate the powerful voice of my generation and let them speak for themselves. Little Monsters are not a fan base; they are a culture that exists entirely outside of pop music. They are their own religion. They are a race within the race of humanity. The freedom and unprejudiced nature of The Monsterball, and for those who love Born This Way, spreads widely and has begun to live outside of the walls of the arena and the album charts.

I don't say this with hubris, or with intent to take ownership over this community (as in fact they created their voice, not I), but rather I'd like to posture the possibility that kindness, mobilization and pop culture can push the boundaries of love and acceptance. We are all different, and it is this fact that makes us the same.

In the most basic and scientific sense, our "way," as we were born, would be defined as cellular procreation, as I have theatrically interpreted in many of my performance pieces. So, if we were to analyze this basic formula, we could quite simply say we were born not only from each other, but we were additionally made of each other, and designed to grow together. Love is the magic ingredient, of course, to the giant petri dish of life.

In this issue, I nominated Monster ambassadors to represent each Metro country from around the world. I asked them to research, write about and identify which issues pertaining to equality and social justice affect their region the most. In this paper, I've included graphs, charts, commentary, global surveys and articles inspired and generated by Little Monsters. This piece conjures an approach to anti-bullying and equality that encourages togetherness through our shared human struggles. Metro and I beckon for those who are perhaps not affected by these challenges to help spread awareness of their reality, and act as a nurturing and compassionate force to those in need.

Be yourself, love who you are, and be proud. You were born this way, baby.

Sincerely,

LADY GAGA

Gaga's intern for a day: 'One of my biggest dreams ever'

Dear Lady Gaga,

I will read my letter to you.

I just can't believe that this dream became reality. It's like Tinkerbell's magical dust sprinkled all over me. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me strength, the power of self respect, for your love, creativity and passionate, fashionable work. We weren't the best fans in the world without you Gaga. You made us believe in ourselves and never give up.

I feel so blessed and honoured that you chose me as your editorial assistant today, of all those little monsters across the galaxy. Yes, I think you do have admirers from outer space. I prayed every day and made a wish when I saw a shooting star on the perfect night with my friends. You're a big glittering star shining down on us, inspiring children and insecure individuals to be themselves. To fight against AIDS, and for human rights, full equality, without forgetting the devastating forces of nature (Japan). You truly deserve the title, Warrior Queen.

There are so many dreams I hope to accomplish one day. I study Graphic Design in Holland and this is my graduation year. A while ago, I was rejected at an arts academy because they said I was too good for them. It made me feel like I did not belong in this industry, although it was meant as a compliment. They said that I had to apply to a company or a brand. And now I only have three weeks to apply before summer vacation starts. Otherwise I have no job or education for a year.

One of my biggest dreams ever is to work for you, Gaga. It's so unreal that I feel guilty asking you. I know it's a lot to ask but I remember what you said and it inspired me so much to work even harder at school, to become even greater! We should always start at the bottom and do whatever it takes to climb that mountain. Scrubbing floors, cleaning toilets, doing the dishes, removing cobwebs, etc. I'll do what it takes to be a great artistic graphic designer for a lady like you.

Do you remember Pieter Henket? The photographer who shot The Fame album cover? I interviewed him for my school magazine and he told me all about you. He said to always look ahead and love the mud you're in. Because it's always hard work! It made me even more excited to tell you this. So, who knows, maybe you can use me as your intern someday?

The cover designs of the Born This Way album are true perfection. I've never seen anything like it. Nick Knight is so awesome. I love your taste, Gaga. Today, I'm going to put the utmost care into being your little assistant. I will be strong and I'm not going to disappoint you. I say, let's make some magic baby!

But I have a few gifts for you. A few from myself and one from a friend of mine. The first is the illustration above, which I drew.

Enjoy. Much love xxoo
Jeroen Engelen

Contest

The ultimate little monsters

We found the world's biggest Gaga fans and asked them why they were "born this way." "There's really no line anymore between where I begin and my fans begin," Gaga says. "We are each other."

Report

Gay rights around the world

We look at the progress — or lack thereof — internationally, with a look at the highs and lows.

Interview

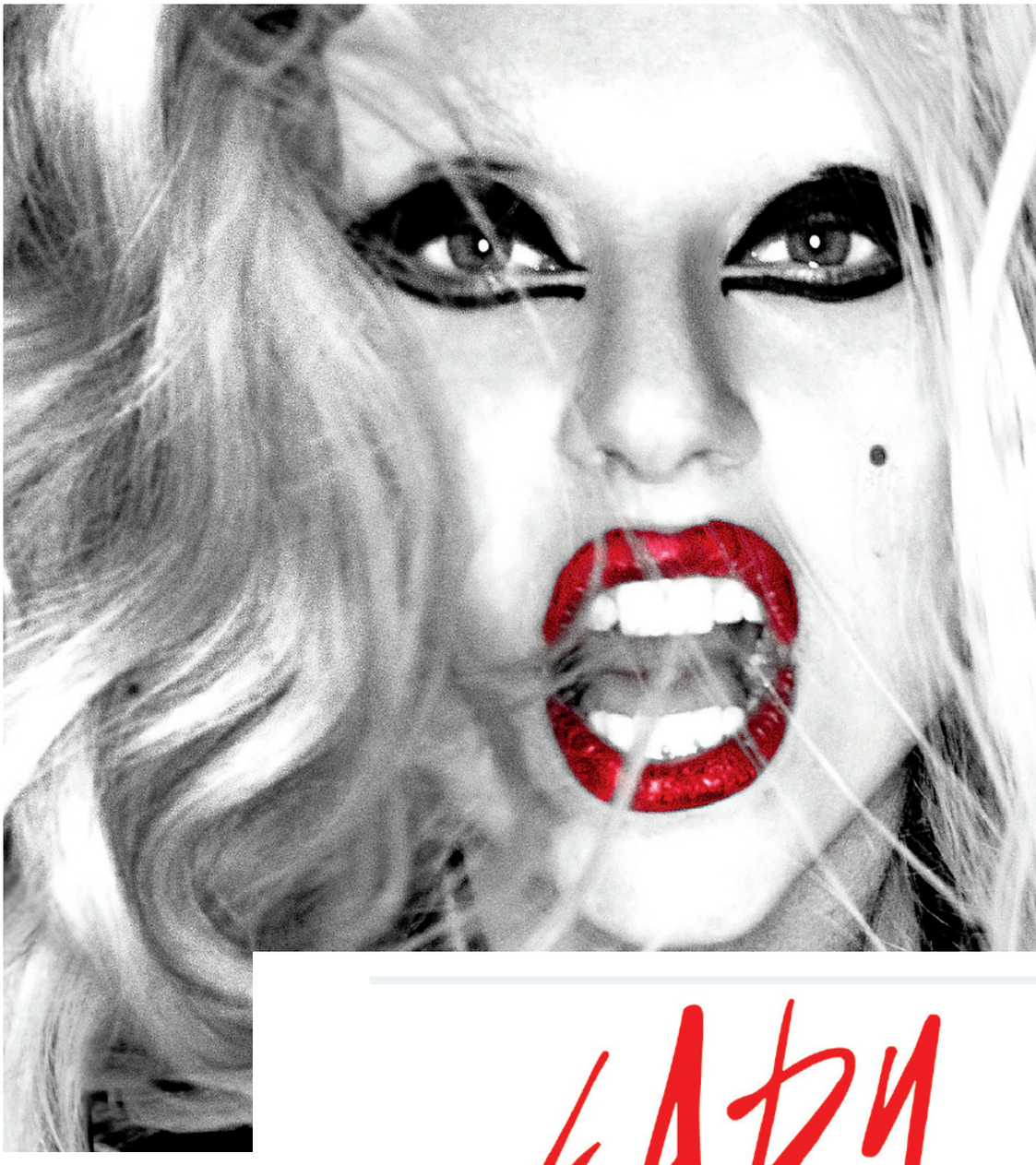
A one-on-one with the Mother Monster

Lady Gaga sits down with Metro and tells it like it is.

THE GAGA INTERVIEW

"I'm off-the-charts gay! But that's not quite the way to put it. As if you are or you're not. It's this completely subjective overarching aesthetic called life."

Michael Freidson
metro world news
michael.freidson@ metro.lu



LADY GAGA
THE ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW

So, I'm from your old neighbourhood in New York. My mother teaches musical theater there.
Have you seen my show? Because I was a theater kid. I was always perceived as a theater nerd and that is very much a part of all the bullying I talk about during the show. It stemmed from that.

Theater geeks are taking over the world now.
Yeah. And a lot of theater lovers are super music librarians and super fashion librarians and know everything about composers, designers and directors. They've so much to be in love with.

Let's start with the new album, Born This Way. Is there a theme to it? Are we wrong to expect a statement from dance music?
No, in fact, thank goodness everyone expects something from me at this point. Born This Way is my answer to many questions over the years: 'Who are you? What are you about?' The most paramount theme on the record is me struggling to understand how I can exist as myself, as someone who lives halfway between fantasy and reality all the time.

What's it like to live between two people?
It's not two people. It's two worlds. Two aesthetics. For example, the religious themes I explore on the album are not necessarily religious in an institutional way but are about being fascinated with characters. I was taught my whole life about Judas and Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene fascinates me because she was, in my belief, both wholly human and wholly divine. So how can I be fully magical and fully human?

You're going to get a lot of autobiographical questions because you're selling your personality on Born This Way.
Isn't that interesting, that you have to sell your personality? That in itself is kind of what Born This Way is all about. I don't want to sell my personality. My personality is mine and yours is yours.

But the difference is, you're asking me to pay for yours. Are you a real person or part of a marketing machine?
It's kind of like saying, 'Are you honest? Do you have integrity? Are you full of shit?' But listen, my social involvement for equality and gay rights, as well as my music, is completely genuine. But I don't think I ever want everyone to ever know fully who or what I am. Part of what I'm doing is asking you to look inside yourself, to ask yourself questions.

Have you been in therapy?
No therapy yet. I probably should be. (Laughs) I have a close relationship with my family. I'm very close with my fans and I'm in tune with what they want. And I'm in tune with myself, too. At the end of the day, I have to look myself in the mirror and I'm proud of everything I stand for. I have no reason to do or say anything unless it comes from my soul. I work very hard. I don't party very much. You don't see me falling out of nightclubs and buying Range Rovers. Social justice and music are the two most paramount things in my life and I can't put it more plainly.

Where does sexuality fit in to that? Do you use it consciously?
Because I'm sexy? (Laughs) Well, I'm a woman. Now, what specifically do you find sexy? I think this is funny. For the first two-and-a-half years of my career, I was considered to be the weird girl who dressed very crazy. I don't think I'm perceived as sexy.

You never felt sexy, even when first performing?
I felt like any other 15-

GAGA

In an exclusive, hour-long sit-down, the Mother Monster met with Metro at the Beverly Hills Hotel for an open, revealing talk. "I'm not someone who got into this business to get into interviews," she told us halfway through. "But I can tell you, I'm infinitely more relaxed right now."

year-old girl who's trying to figure it all out. I'm just like any other chick, really. Did I view myself as a sexual being? I was very insecure for a very long time. I didn't know that I would be very comfortable with it and it wasn't until very recently that I actually enjoyed sex. I was talking with my sister about how it's not until you really love yourself that you can give love to others.

Are you addicted to your fans?
Yeah, well, it's … it's very strange because there's really no line anymore between where I begin and my fans begin. We are all one. I feel like I would die from a lack of inspiration if I didn't have them. I never want them to feel like I abandoned their culture. It's not about the money for me. I'd give all the money away if I had to choose between it and them.

That's a strange answer from a multi-millionaire.
Look, people who make music and get famous and then start to slow down and get lazy — they weren't in it for the music. I can't put out my music fast enough. I wanted to put this record out seven months ago. I'm not wallowing in some romanticized idea of what it means to be an "artiste." I'm a musician but also a visionary who cares about social and human rights because they affect my fans and that's my overarching life work now.

So, about human rights: You wanted to ask Metro readers why they were Born This Way...
Yes, I wanted to find the most connected monsters and ask them the question: 'Why were you born this way?' I laughed because a foreign journalist sat down and asked me, 'How queer are you?'

Was that a case of lost in translation?
I said, first of all, we don't really use that word here. But what he was really asking me was, 'How gay are you?' I'm off-the-charts gay! (Laughs) But that's not quite the way to put it. As if you are or you're not. It's not mathematical. It's this completely subjective overarching aesthetic called life and you have this huge palate to paint from and you're asking me, 'How queer are you?' That's just one palate. It's like I say so many things in that song (Born This Way). But the first thing everyone comes back with is, gaygaygaygaygaygay. Are you gay? Is the song gay? And you're missing what life is offering you because you're hinged on one word. Look into yourself. Are you born to be brave? To rebuke all of these labels?

Well, you're expecting the world to be where you are.
It's generational. And it's me reminding myself, as an artist, 'Dear Lady Gaga, you are not a trend.'

Wait — do you address yourself as Lady Gaga when you talk to yourself in your head?
I do. Not as Stefani. It's Gaga. Stefani is who I am, too, but I'm Gaga all the time. (Pauses) Wait, I lost my train of thought talking about the four different people that I am.

You were talking about not being a trend.
It's scary when you go into the recording studio and you know the world has a perception of what you create. I have to write myself a freaking letter: 'Dear You, nobody can tell you who you are. You are who you decide to be.' And then I can create music.

Note from the interviewer

When you tell people you've sat down with Lady Gaga for an interview, their first question is, "What was she wearing?" – as if she might have appeared in a meat dress, carried in an egg. In fact, when we met at the Beverly Hills Hotel, alone in a banquet hall, she was wearing a sheer black top with black pasties underneath. It was almost elegant.

Their second question is, "What was she like?" After reading this story, you'd probably agree: She's intelligent. Earnest. Aware of her power.

Refreshingly, Gaga is also mindful of the fact that she's only recently become a star. Her experiment with fame paid off. Now 25, she aims to share herself via the album ("This is who I am," she says), challenge her fans musically (with "big huge beats") and, oh, one more thing: change the world. The fun part will be seeing what she wears while trying.

BEFORE GAGA THERE WAS ...

1899-Now

From Noel to Elton

Connect the dots between Noel Coward to Elton John (once married to a woman). In or out of the closet, they made being "different" cool.

1978

The Village People

Even straight men today sing YMCA: "You can hang out with all the boys."

1980s

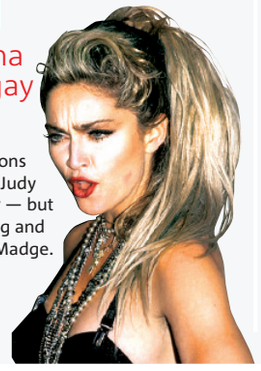
George Michael and Boy George

The '80s found these two British megastars playing up their sexuality, although Michael didn't come out of the closet for years.

1980s-Now

Madonna courts gay crowd

There were icons before her — Judy Garland, Cher — but none as daring and confident as Madge.



1980s

Rap anti-gay?

Despite Madonna and the Georges, '80s hip-hop acts like the Beastie Boys, N.W.A. and Public Enemy included lyrics perceived as anti-gay. Most would later go on to apologize.

'HUGE PROGRESS

LGBT rights

Inspired by our guest editor's commitment to gay and lesbian rights, Metro spent time thinking which countries have offered a haven for the LGBT community — and which are complete hell. Here's a closer look at how we're doing worldwide.

Michael Freidson
Metro World News
michael.freidson@metro.lu

Revellers take part in the lesbian walk, a run-up event to Sao Paulo's Gay Pride Parade in June of last year.

"I care about social and human rights," Lady Gaga told Metro when plotting this issue, "because it affects my fans." She couldn't have picked better timing: Today is International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, a day dedicated to raising awareness about gay rights worldwide.

To find out which countries need more awareness than others, we asked someone close to the ground: Cary Alan Johnson, executive director of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission. His organization advances human rights via advocacy on the local level, reporting from every continent.

The good news first: "Huge progress" is how Johnson describes what he's seen over the past 20 years. Canada, the U.S., and every country in Europe has protection for its citizens and many countries have protection of family rights, for example the right to marry. "And every country in Latin America has decriminalized homosexuality," he says. "We even have progress in some African countries. We still have two-thirds criminalizing it but some, like Mozambique, have made it clear that they're committed, while South Africa has the most progressive constitution in the world, even going so far as to uphold the right to marry and to adopt children."

And now the bad news: Even in those countries, violence still strikes. In "progressive" South Africa, just last month, Noxolo Nogwaza, a 24-year-old well-known lesbian activist, died after being stabbed with glass shards, during what's known locally as a "corrective rape." A used condom and empty glass bottle were found on top of her body.

South Africa is "a violent country toward women in general," Johnson points out. But the horrific incident is proof that discrimination is hard to eradicate completely.

"Those in the Middle East and certain parts of Africa are still mired in a certain type of social conservatism that leads to violence," says Johnson, adding that poverty and religion complicate matters. What's worse, kids who are "different" are often denied an education. "Lesbian girls in Uganda get thrown out of schools," he says. "Transgender kids in Belize and other places in the Caribbean cannot attend. Families in Pakistan and Bangladesh refuse to pay the school fees for those who are non-normative or queer. If you can't get an education, you can't support yourself and you'll always face discrimination."

So what can one do? Activate. Unite. And be patient. "Time" is Johnson's prescribed cure. "It's generational," Gaga tells us. The world will accept gays when they see they're normal people, like our postmen and doctors and … international superstars.

"Gaga goes above and beyond for the rest of us," says Johnson. "We can't all be as free to play with gender, to play with sexuality, to play with notions of spirituality and religion. She does it for us and stands firm. So we deeply appreciate that. She's speaking out."

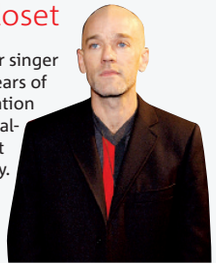
1991

Freddie Mercury of Queen dies of AIDS

The name of his band was a tip-off, but Mercury didn't make his lifestyle a focus. But his death in 1991 brought attention to the disease.

2001

Michael Stipe comes out of closet



A major singer ends years of speculation by revealing that he's gay.

2001

Eminem accused of anti-gay slurs. He duets with Elton John.

They are currently brokering a peace agreement in the Middle East.

2004

Beenie Man pulled from MTV VMAs

Gay rights groups claimed his lyrics were hateful; he apologized.

2010

Ricky Martin comes out, as have Lance Bass and Clay Aiken

Finally.

2011

Glee

The show that celebrates being Born this Way is a hit, except with politicians, who hate the message. Of course Lady Gaga's a fan!

' IN GAY RIGHTS

RODRIGO COCA/FOTOARENA/LATINCONTENT/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's not there yet...

When word crossed the border months ago that the U.S. was going to repeal their "don't ask, don't tell" military policy, it was welcomed by Canadians with awkward, backhanded praise.

Out gays in the military? Canadian soldiers have had the right to be out since 1992. Same-sex adoption? 1999. Same-sex marriage? 2005. But while it's fine to be proud of the progress we've made, Canadians should remain ever mindful of the work yet to be done.

1. No explicit protections for trans people.

Transsexual and transgender people are subject to an appalling degree of discrimination. In an effort to provide explicit protections for trans people, the federal government recently passed a private member's bill that would add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the election, it was killed in the Senate.

Given the fierce opposition the bill faced from the Conservative party, it's unlikely our trans community will see these necessary protections passed by the now-majority Harper government.

2. Homophobia in our schools

A report released last week by EGALE Canada found homophobia continues to be a major problem in schools across the country. Almost two out of three LGBT high school students do not feel safe.

The It Gets Better campaign has been successful in attracting attention to the plight of LGBT youth, who are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

3. Gay men banned from donating blood

In Canada, men who wish to donate blood are banned if they've had sex a single time with another man since 1977. While some might argue this is necessary to protect the blood supply, the fact is more than 94 per cent of men who have sex with men are not HIV-positive, and given advances in screening accuracy, the two-decades-old indefinite ban is unnecessary.

In many countries the deferral period is one year and it's been estimated that a five-year deferral in the U.S. would lead to an increase of 71,400 donors.

4. LGBT senior citizens more vulnerable

Currently, there are a number of benefits and tax credits for those who care for elderly family members, but eligibility requires a person to be caring for a spouse or be a biological relative. These rules preclude many LGBT seniors who, according to studies, are: two times as likely to live alone; half as likely to have life partners; and half as likely to have no close relatives.

5. LGBT at higher risk for hate crimes

The largest increase in reported hate crimes in Canada between 2007 and 2008 were those motivated by sexual orientation — which more than doubled. In 2008, a full 75 per cent of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation were violent crimes, meaning they were more likely than any other hate crime to result in physical injury to victims.

ALEX DUFFY/EGALE CANADA

Canadian milestones

Canadian landmarks in the struggle for LGBT rights:

1969

- "Homosexuality" is decriminalized in Canada. The passing of Bill C-150, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, puts an end to Canada's direct legal persecution of same-sex oriented Canadians.

July 1971

- Last Canadian imprisoned for "homosexuality" released. Everett George Klippert is released after being imprisoned indefinitely in 1965.

August 1971

- Canada's first gay rights march takes place in Ottawa. Approximately 100 people march to the Parliament buildings demanding fair policy for gay and lesbian Canadians.

1977

- Québec becomes the first jurisdiction in Canada to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in its provincial Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

March 1981

- More than a thousand people flock to St. Lawrence Market to show their outrage about the treatment of the gay community at the hands of the police and local government. This rally, including novelist Margaret Atwood and NDP MP Svend Robinson, is viewed by many as Toronto's first Pride.

1995

- Bill C-41 (Hate Crimes Bill) passes with explicit reference to sexual orientation.

June 1996

- Sexual orientation written in to Canadian Human Rights Act.

2000

- Same-sex common-law partnership recognized by federal government.

June 10, 2003

- Ontario becomes first province to recognize same-sex marriage.

July 2005

- Canada becomes the fourth country to allow same-sex marriage. Bill C-38 receives Royal Assent and same-sex marriage is legalized nationwide.

December 2006

- A Conservative government motion to re-examine the issue of same-sex marriage is defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 175 to 123.

‘I WAS BORN TO BE B

Contest

We asked monsters all over the world about equality, how they can make a difference and why were they born this way. Here’s what they told us.

LITTLE MONSTER

Editorial assistant Jeroen Engelen, 20

“Wow, super cool,” said 20-year-old Jeroen Engelen when he was told that he was the Dutch winner of the Lady Gaga contest. Metro asked him a few more things about his love for Lady Gaga.

Why were you born this way?
My entry is very ambiguous. It’s a little story, actually, where I tell how I’ve become a fan. One day I received a light from outer space, from some sort of Goddess. The reason why I’m born this way, is that I use this light. I’ve given it a place, but it keeps changing, it’s getting bigger. Lady Gaga is an inspiration to me, her music has made me into what I am now. Every Gaga song has made me stronger. I’m creative, I’m schooled in graphic design. Lady Gaga motivates me in what I create myself.

What does an equal world look like to you?
That would be a world where everyone respects each other. Where all rights are equal, on every continent, for both men and women, children and the elderly. And where there’s no war. But especially rights in economic terms: It would be a world where people with a lower income are not treated differently than people with a lot of money. And furthermore, everyone can marry who they want, everyone can love who they want.

How long have you been a fan?
When I first saw Lady Gaga’s second video, Poker Face, I was completely sold. I had been waiting for her! I didn’t know why exactly, but she was inspiring. And she still is. I’ve visited every concert and I follow her every move.

Falko De Bolster

BELGIUM

“At the end of the day we are all interconnected to some degree. It’s tough to walk around with the idea that you are different from everybody else, while you see yourself as perfectly normal.”

Lyle Reimer, 33

ENGLISH CANADA

“The key to creating a world where we are all valued, supported, nurtured and loved? Recognize that we’re all the same.”

Maude Larose, 18

FRENCH CANADA

“Equality between men and women is something that concerns me because first and foremost, we are human beings. A woman is worth as much as a man.”

Jeimmy Romina Carroza Allup, 22

CHILE

“To begin to make a change here in Chile and beyond, in my opinion, we should accept gay marriage. It would be a good start to begin to open Chilean people’s minds.”

Garifallia-Elizabeth Deligianni, 20

GREECE

“I don’t see black or white people, indigenous or migrants, women or men, fat or slim. What we need to see is that all of us are people.”

Jorge Andrés Zamora, 16

GUATEMALA

“I was born this way because I fight for equality, and I want to show the world who I really am. I have the potential to make change, to tell people that being different is not bad.”

Gregory Wong, 32

HONG KONG

“I was born to be the man loving my lady ... and now I’m a daddy!”

Flóra Németh, 21

HUNGARY

“(Young people)are very much open, and I think this is good. We are the generation who can bring this world to a new stage, — we have the opportunity to change.”

RAVE'

Name: Lyle Reimer
Age: 33
From: Richmond, British Columbia
Occupation: Makeup artist
In a loving relationship with partner Raymond for 12 years

"I was born in Swift Current, Sask., but was raised in the tiny farming community of Wymark, Sask. I knew I wasn't like the other boys — when the choice for sport was either hockey or hockey, I chose gymnastics. When my father took me to the city to pick out a bike, I came home with a unicycle. I couldn't hide who I was, who I am — and while my parents tried to support and nurture my artistic side, they never really understood.

Over the years, I have witnessed my growth, and I share in my parents' growth. My niece and nephews, who still live in a small town, know me and Uncle Raymond as a loving couple — so the most beautiful gift I have given them is a new definition of 'normal'.

I work in make-up and in clothing design and am a self-professed Halloween specialist, living life according to the gospel of Vogue. Yes! I was born this way!"

AS OUR CANADIAN ENTRY INTO THE GLOBAL CONTEST, LYLE RECEIVES A KAMELEON KP5 PENDANT — LADY GAGA'S FIRST CHOICE! — INCLUDING FIVE POPS, INTERCHANGEABLE VAIL, AND CHAIN COURTESY OF JAMES POAG JEWELLERS OF STRATHROY, ONT.

Josef Neumann, 18

"People rarely talk about homosexuals in a positive way. It is still taboo to many. I talk to people so they can know us better. I don't hide my sexuality ... Everybody should be proud of who he or she loves."

Jakob Kolda, 21

"I think it's important to have spokespeople. People who dare to come to the forefront. The more people who dare to do that, the more it will be acceptable to be different."

César Cajas, 19

"I want to make people feel secure, not afraid, not alone. I want to help people break the walls of fear. Without racism, homophobia, and hate, this planet would be paradise."

Joanna Tzortzis, 20

"Growing up in a multicultural environment taught me tolerance. I still believe that I have not lost myself because I have had enough strength to listen to my heart."

Nina Alem Sebbagh, 15

"We are all born to accomplish a mission on Earth. This is not an easy task. Everyone will have his or her share of suffering, happiness, love ... It is our destiny!"

Job Favela, 27

"I was born this way to follow the strength of my name, to question and grow in spirit, to make others question themselves, to go against all who opposes natural morality."

Tiago José Silva Eugénio, 16

"People do not accept me. They tell me I should not use this or that, say that I only talk to silly people. Gaga made me realize that all of this is only a phase of my life."

Evgenya Zakharova, 23

"I care a lot about inequality in family relationships. The future of our children worries me the most. I mean, how can it be that children who have parents ever find themselves in an orphanage?"

Petsy von Köhler, 22

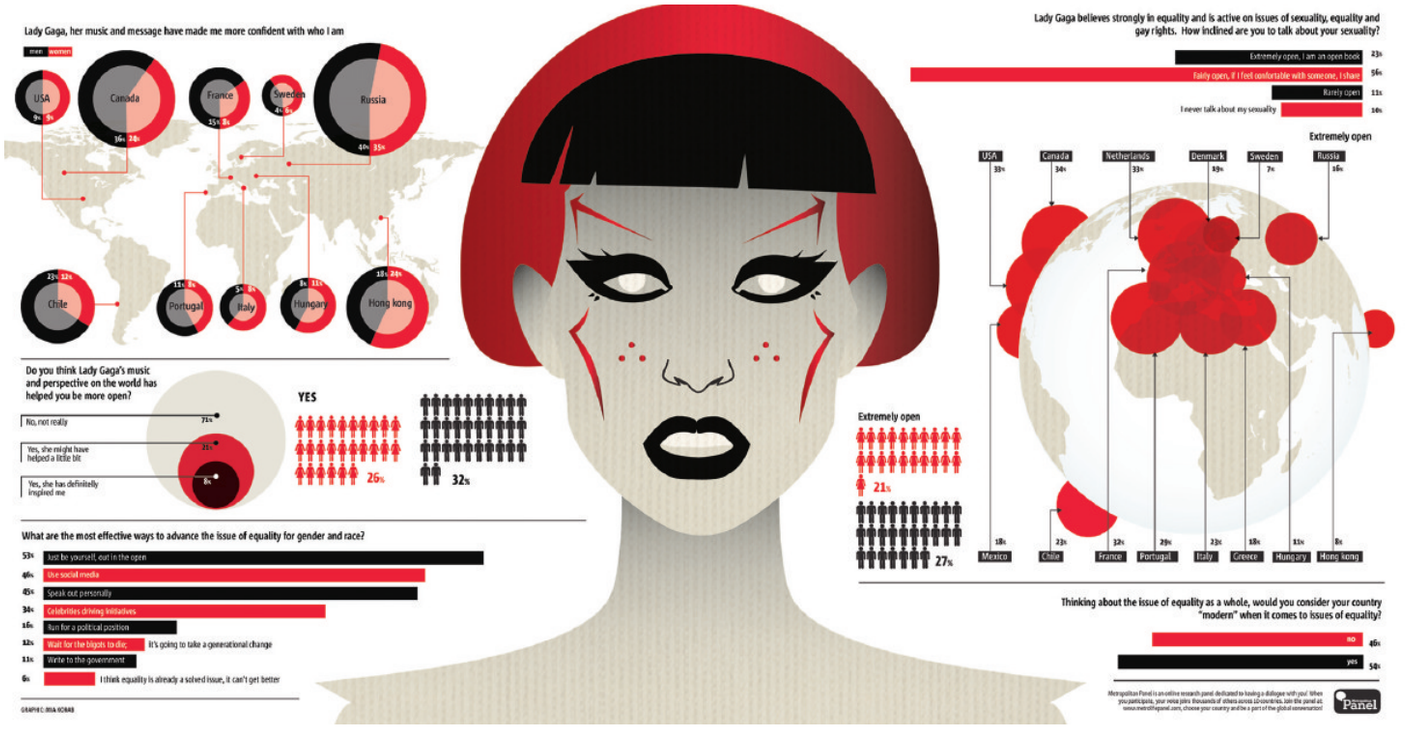
"I see myself as impossible to label and as an individual, not as a gender or a sexual orientation."

Ashley Gagnon, 22

"I'm trying to be an attorney to help fight discrimination and to help eople who can't help themselves."

Mother Monster's reach

Equality Are you influenced by our guest editor's music and message? Metro conducted a global survey of our readers to find out:



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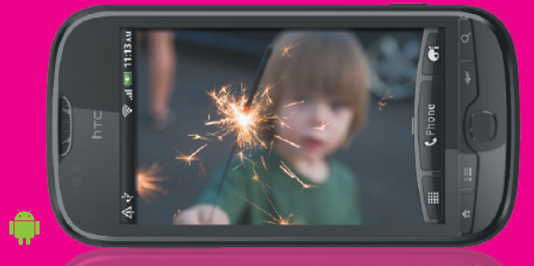

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ALEX MAGUIRE

Dear Lady Gaga...

Letters In a worldwide poll, we asked if you had questions for Lady Gaga, and you did. Yesterday, she answered a few right here in our office. (We'll never wash that pen.)

How important to you is being a role model?

Very. But perhaps more important to push the "idea" of what a role model can be. Push the limits. The boundaries. Sometimes the most unassuming characters are the best role models.

Who are your heroes?

Lady Starlight Music and My World
Yoko Ono Queen Tinkerbell Marilyn
John Lennon Rocky Joanne Judy Garland
David Bowie Kiss My Wigs Prime Rib
Little Monsters Coretta King Nicola Mugler
My Mother Alexander McQueen Daddy Laurie
The Sun Elton & David Ralph Haus of Gaga
God Fashion Prince The Wall of New Yorkers
Jeroen Jameson Pollock
Rington Street York

Do you ever want to be anonymous?

NO!

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?

That humanity could find togetherness. We are all different, and it is that which makes us the same.

Do you have any regrets?

Don't hide yourself in regret, just live yourself and you're set.

Do you struggle with self esteem?

Yes.

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Western Mediterranean
7-Night Cruise from USD $599 + taxes & fees USD $104
FEATURES Toulon, Cannes, Florence/Pisa, Civitavecchia (Rome) and Naples. Sails roundtrip Barcelona. Interior stateroom.

Hawai'i 10-Night Cruise from USD $999 + taxes & fees USD $62
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DRESSING GAGA

Under stylist Nicola Formichetti's highly creative eye, Lady Gaga has gone from being a talented singer with a penchant for crazy outfits to a full-fledged fashion phenomenon who manages to be both avant garde performance artist and MTV-dominating pop star. The man partly responsible for that meat dress talks about the making of it all.

KENYA HUNT
metro world news
kenya.hunt@metro.lu

1 In the beginning: Music vs. Fashion

"If you're a high fashion stylist, you don't touch music. That's the rule. So when I started working with Gaga, people were really surprised. But I was in a place where I was feeling frustrated with myself. I had been in London for 10 years and was ready for a change. I really liked her video for 'Paparazzi' and felt like she was taking it somewhere interesting. I loved her look. So I suggested her to a few magazines for a cover shoot. And they were like, 'No. Who's that?' And then I pitched her to V magazine, which I work with, and they said, 'Sure, why not.' They were the most supportive."

AUGUST 2008

2 Like minds: When two 'crazies' become one

"We shot her in L.A. I wanted to take her somewhere else that she hadn't been to. I wanted to bring her more into high fashion. I had brought all of these really amazing clothes – Givenchy, Chanel, Versace. So she shows up to the shoot at 8 a.m. in her whole look: Outfit, hair, makeup and heels. I was like, 'This bitch is crazy. She's living it.' That's unheard of. Most celebrities turn up wanting you to dress them. I was mesmerized. And she had this great body with all these tattoos. I told her, 'You should let me shoot you naked.' She was like, 'You have all these amazing clothes, why would you want to shoot me naked?' I said, 'Let's do naked.' And she later told me, that's when she knew that I was as crazy as she is. We connected."

AUGUST 2008

3 Fashion snobbery: Reeling in the couture

"In the beginning, it was tricky calling in clothes for Gaga because none of the designers wanted to work with her with the exception of Lee [Alexander McQueen] and Miuccia Prada. They were both supportive from the beginning. I remember every single designer who said no. I will never forget [laughs]. And since then, every single designer has come back asking to work with her."

FEBRUARY 2010

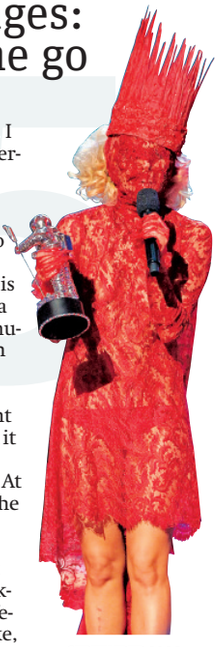
4 Mugler: Taking it to the runway

"I'm not a designer, I never went to fashion school. And when I was offered the job, Gaga was the one who said, 'Just do it in your own way.' She's not contracted to Mugler. We're purely friends and just dialogue about it. She's involved. When she walked in the show, she worked those heels better than the models! She wears high heels at yoga. And Gaga bought every piece and has been wearing them these past few months. But the clothes are ageless, they are for a woman with an attitude. We wanted them to be easy to wear. We focused on the fabrics and the silhouettes."

MARCH 2011

5 Outfit changes: Seven in one go

"I don't consider Gaga a celebrity. I consider her a performance artist. Celebrities on the red carpet selling a hideous dress — that concept is so Hollywood and fake and bland. In a way, celebrity is the death of fashion. Gaga doesn't work in that formula. She studies the fashion and art world. She's not just wearing it. When we do the red carpet, we want it to be a bit off. We want it to mean something, like the egg at the Grammys. At our first VMA Awards – the one where she bled to death on stage – we did seven outfit changes that night. I was standing backstage with all of these safety pins. And they were like, 'Who are these people?' It was a little fashion show."



SEPTEMBER 2009

6 One-upmanship: No pressure

"I never look at it as Gaga and me trying to top the last outfit. We just both get bored easily. We're always reading crazy, random things and emailing them to each other for inspiration. We don't want our fans seeing the same thing over and over. We've had days when we just do pared-down denim and a T-shirt, but then that becomes a statement in itself. I love denim and am always thinking of ways to do it so that it looks new. But she's always in leather. That's her. It's hard to believe we've only been doing this together for two years."

FEBRUARY 2011

Follow this man's Tumblr

Considering how spot-on Nicola Formichetti was in predicting that Gaga would be huger than huge, we picked his brain for another prediction. "Tumblr, Tumblr, Tumblr. Blogging is dead. It's all about Twitter and Tumblr," he says. "I love that Tumblr is so visually-based. It's huge. When one of my fans posts something on Tumblr and then they see me reblog it, they go wild. That's the amazing thing about the Internet, that it allows people to connect with their followers directly."

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LADY GAGA

▶ Spencer and his partner, Romi Chandra Herbert

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

There are GLBT folks, and allies all over British Columbia who will stand with you against hate and bigotry, and with you for a world where we love diversity and the uniqueness of all of us. You are not alone. You are worth it.

Build up some support around you, for you, and then let your light shine, and when you can do that, find a way to support someone else be themselves.

Everyone's coming out process will be different — there is no one right way to be gay, bi, lesbian or trans. The only right way is to be yourself. As RuPaul so eloquently says it: "If you can't love yourself, how are you ever going to love somebody else?"

Spencer Chandra Herbert, Vancouver-Burrard MLA

For more local news visit our website at metronews.ca/vancouver

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Shannon Broderick, manger of the SPCA's Sunshine Coast branch, holds May, a poodle that survived after being dropped by a bird of prey in Sechelt.

Dog's survival a 'miracle'

Animal was picked up by a large bird of prey before being dropped
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals amazed by dog's plight

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

It wasn't quite raining cats and dogs in Sechelt earlier this month, but the B.C. SPCA says it's a "miracle" a dog is alive after being "dropped from the sky."

May, a six-year-old toy poodle, is being treated for painful gouges on her back and multiple broken ribs after being picked up by a large bird of prey and dropped from an unknown height.

Residents of the Shorncliff Nursing Home were shocked to see the dog fall from the sky and crash to the ground.

Nurses at the care facility assisted the dog until the B.C. SPCA arrived.

The SPCA says the dog had obviously been on its own and unattended for a while before being snatched by the bird.

Its teeth were badly decayed and its nails were so long they had grown into its paws.

"It's ironic, but this bird may have saved her life," SPCA Sunshine Coast branch manager Shannon Broderick said.

May had no ID on her and attempts to find her possible owner have failed.

The branch is now trying to raise $4,000 to cover for two dental surgeries and other medical costs.

"It's an absolute miracle that she survived, and we want to do everything we can to help her," said Broderick.

May is recovering in the care of the SPCA before she undergoes surgery.

Local woman charged with human trafficking

A shocking tale of servitude and slavery has led police to lay human-trafficking charges against a West Vancouver woman.

The RCMP's Border Integrity Program announced today that 55-year-old Mumtaz Landha was charged May 12, and a warrant remains outstanding for her arrest.

Landha is accused of hiring a 21-year-old woman from Africa with the promise of a work visa and a Vancouver-area job at a hair salon in 2008.

Instead, Landha allegedly forced the victim to work 18-hour days, seven days a week, at her home with no pay.

Police say her passport was held by the suspect.

After a year of servitude "living in a state of fear," police say the young woman managed to flee her alleged captor and escape to a women's shelter. That's when police were notified and an official investigation began.

MATT KIELTYKA

1 news

A restaurant in the St. Louis area calls its pay-what-you-want initiative a success. Scan code for story.

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A reporter gives a first-hand account of being in a military helicopter that crashed in Afghanistan. Video at metronews.ca

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News in brief

ICBC reverses rate-plan increase

TICKET. ICBC has withdrawn a rate-restructuring proposal that called for an increase in premiums after a single speeding ticket.

ICBC said it will instigate a provincewide public consultation that will include stakeholder meetings, open houses and online feedback.

JULIA DILWORTH

Novelty stamps to be issued

IMMORTALIZED. B.C. icons Rick Hansen and Michael J. Fox will be immortalized in stamps next year, Canada Post announced yesterday.

The Man In Motion and the television and movie star are among the 20 people and themes that will be featured on Canadian stamps in 2012.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

Final destination for landmark

LIONS GATE. It seems Hollywood has scripted the end for one of Vancouver's most beloved landmarks. The city's almost 75-year-old Lions Gate Bridge is among the fatalities in the newest instalment in the Final Destination franchise. METRO

Police search for robbery suspect

MORNING. Police are looking for witnesses following an early-morning robbery in Kitsilano after a 24-year-old woman walking near Yew Street and York Avenue had her cash stolen. The suspect later ran east on Cornwall Avenue. JULIA DILWORTH

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Fluid buildup in brain killed porpoise: Doctor

Samples from the sea mammal will help marine scientists figure out how land parasites affect marine animals

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

▶ Aquarium veterinarian Martin Haulena releases the preliminary results from the necropsy conducted yesterday after Siyay's death at the Vancouver Aquarium's Mammal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Fluid buildup in the brain was likely behind the death of a harbour porpoise rescued by the Vancouver Aquarium, animal rescue staff announced yesterday.

Siyay, a two-year-old male porpoise, died early Sunday morning after being saved 18 days earlier off Salt Spring Island and receiving around-the-clock care.

Porpoises are mammals related to dolphins and whales.

Veterinarian Martin Haulena said the preliminary necropsy results were a surprise because they showed hydrocephalus — a condition that may have been caused by a parasite called protozoal encephalitis — to be the primary cause of Siyay's death.

He said B.C. vets haven't seen this disease before in their examinations of dead sea creatures.

"Why are marine animals getting infected by a terrestrial parasite?" Haulena asked. "That is a huge issue.

"We have fresh tissues, which are incredibly rare for us to have, so even in death he is going to be a very important animal."

The sea mammal was also suffering from a lungworm-type disease, gastric ulcers and parasites, he added.

"This animal represents a bigger loss for us just because it's a slightly rare species and the close interaction that people had to have with him," Haulena said.

Canucks flag may be behind Kamloops fecal bombing

A large Vancouver Canucks flag in a Kamloops backyard could be the motivation behind a human poo-bomb explosion, police said.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Grant Learned said police were dispatched to a home on Badger Drive Sunday after a loud bang and flash of light.

Officers were greeted with a messy crime scene, where they found two-litre milk bottles hanging from a fence — with the tops taped off and bottoms blown right out — and human excrement all over.

"I have been policing since 1980. I've never seen this type of incendiary device used or manufactured," Learned said.

A similar incident happened to the same home on May 11, when the owner found a plastic drink bottle full of human feces leaning against a compost box in their backyard, he added.

Learned said the homeowners think the poo-bombing is related to the big Canucks flag hanging prominently in their backyard, but police have yet to determine the motive.

"These people are not someone who have known enemies ... or would have people in the community who would be out to do them any harm," he said.

"As much as this bleeds into conversations that are comical or humourous in nature, there is nothing funny about it because (of) the potential for someone to get injured if they (had) been out there."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

The area surrounding the town of Slave Lake, Alta., was a hotbed for fur trade in the 19th century, with the Hudson's Bay Company establishing one of its trading posts at the mouth of the lake ◐ Foresty, oil and gas exploration gradually replaced the fur trade as the town's main economic drivers ◐ The community that grew into present-day Slave Lake was incorporated as a town in 1965

IAN JACKSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The smouldering remains of houses outside Slave Lake, Alta., are seen yesterday after a firestorm swept through the town of 7,000, destroying upwards of 30 per cent of the buildings.

Northern Alberta town devastated by Wildfires

SHELLEY WILLIAMSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Ashley Brazean left Slave Lake, Alta., a year ago to start a family of her own, leaving behind her mother, sister and aunt — and a slew of memories.

"That's my whole childhood that just burned down," said Brazean, as she dropped off donations at the Westlock Community Hall, now an evacuation centre for her former town, 160-kilometres away.

Police said nearly a third of Slave Lake has been destroyed by two blazes that left about 10,000 people without homes or waiting to hear of their home's fate.

Brazean's mother's, aunt's and sister's homes are all gone, she said.

Slave Lake Mayor Karina Pillay-Kinnee said that, despite earlier reports, the RCMP station was still in tact but that the town hall and library were levelled.

Evacuation centres filled up in Westlock and Athabasca, where no motel rooms were available by late day. Edmonton's Expo Centre also took those affected.

Residents, many given minutes to evacuate Sunday, were initially told to stay off highways. In doing so, many were forced to change course as they tried to flee flames.

"It looked like a nuclear bomb hit," said Ian Cameron, who left with his girlfriend.

"It was chaotic, a thousand or so people trying to leave at the same time."

Like many, he is not sure if his home will be there when he gets back.

How to help

- **Cash donations can be made** to the Red Cross at 1-800-418-1111 or www.redcross.ca.
- **Donations to the Salvation Army** can be made at 1-800-SAL-ARMY or www.salvationarmy.ca.
- **Those trying to locate** individuals who have been evacuated can call the Red Cross toll-free number.
- **Displaced residents are** asked to register with the Alberta Red Cross at 1-800-565-4483.

Fires ravage beloved haven for nature lovers

A devastating wildfire that has already destroyed a third of the homes in Slave Lake, Alta., is laying waste to a peaceful community that has long been a haven for nature lovers and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

The town of Slave Lake, located 250 kilometres from Edmonton, has historically relied on natural resources for its economic survival.

The town website invites visitors to avail themselves of the white sand beaches and marinas in the area and take part in the recreational activities available during the summer. "Whether you enjoy taking a dip in the lake, world-class walleye and northern pike fishing, sailing, windsurfing, building sandcastles, hiking or birding, there's something to inspire and rejuvenate people of all ages," it says.

The wildfire sweeping its way through the town is not the first natural disaster to hit the area.

The original town, then Sawridge, was destroyed by a flood in the 1930s, prompting the community to settle in a new location.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Read more at metronews.ca

LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

I know that you've already figured out you're gay. Now you have to figure out what to do about that. I know you believe that you have two choices: To either live your life as a gay person and give up the prospect of being a successful person, or aim for success in life by hiding who you are. As gently as possible, understanding this is a tough time for you, let me tell you that you are wrong. You don't need to make that choice. The first thing you should do is trust other people. Start with one other person — tell him or her about yourself, about your struggle. Then find a second person. Then another. You will find that their love for you, their respect for you, is much stronger than your fears. And you'll discover that worries are best shared with others.

Alex Munter was the Ottawa area's first openly gay elected representative and is now CEO of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network.

Safe at school?

LADY GAGA

The Egale Canada Human Rights Trust's report, Every Class in Every School, suggests school is hell for many LGBTQ students.

The report found two-thirds of self-identified LGBTQ students reported feeling unsafe at school. More than half reported verbal harassment and more than a fifth have faced physical harassment or assault based on their sexual orientation. Meanwhile 70 per cent heard homophobic expressions such as "that's so gay" every day in school.

ALEX DUFFY/EGALE CANADA

World court urges warrants for Gadhafi

Persecution persists in Gadhafi-controlled areas: Prosecutor ICC claims enough evidence for trial

The International Criminal Court prosecutor asked judges yesterday to issue arrest warrants for Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and two other senior members of his regime, accusing them of committing crimes against humanity.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo says there is evidence that Gadhafi, his son Seif al-Islam Gadhafi and intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanoussi ordered, planned and participated in illegal attacks. He said Gadhafi's forces attacked civilians in their homes, shot at demonstrators, shelled funeral processions and deployed snipers to kill people leaving mosques.

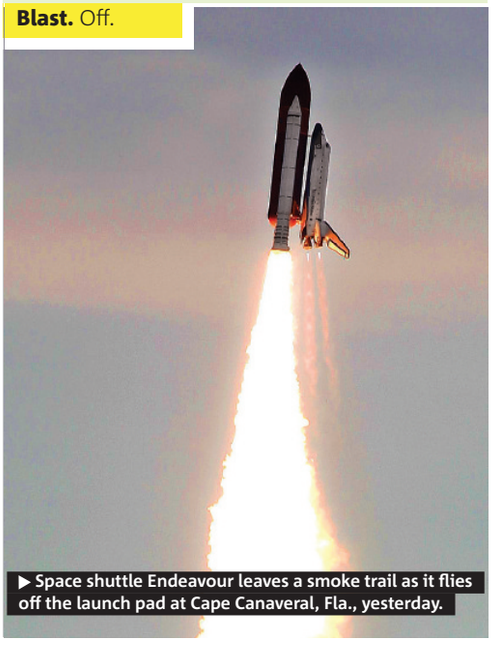
"These are not just crimes against Libyans; they are crimes against humanity as a whole."
LUIS MORENO-OCAMPO, ICC PROSECUTOR

Judges will evaluate the evidence before deciding whether to confirm the charges and issue international arrest warrants.

The warrants are not expected to have an immediate impact on the war in Libya, but could make it harder for targets to go into exile. Because the Security Council ordered the ICC investigation, all UN member states would be obliged to arrest Gadhafi if he ventures into their territory.

The Libyan conflict appears stalemated, despite NATO air strikes. Gadhafi has vowed to fight to the death. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blast. Off.



▶ Space shuttle Endeavour leaves a smoke trail as it flies off the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla., yesterday.

TIM DONNELLY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shuttle's final flight

U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, recovering after being shot in January, watched her husband Mark Kelly power into space on Endeavour yesterday.

LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

First up, it's not a phase. Here's the important part: Being gay is going to do something incredible. When you realize what it means to be on the receiving end of injustice, you're going to figure out what it takes to stand up and fight. Guess what, 15-year-old self, you're wrong. You're going to get it right eventually, so keep doing what you're doing, follow your heart, never give up and keep changing the world one day at a time. That's all it takes and don't ever let anyone else tell you otherwise.
Ryan Clayton, activist

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PlayBook recall part of bumpy transition for RIM

JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ To recapture consumer loyalty, RIM must play catch-up with rival tablet makers and deliver compelling new smartphones, technology watchers say.

Research In Motion has recalled about 1,000 of its PlayBook tablets due to a faulty operating system, another setback in the BlackBerry maker's transition to a new generation of products.

"The number is relatively small, given expectations for tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of units sold in the coming weeks," Edward Jones technology analyst Bill Kreher said yesterday.

He said he expects 500,000 PlayBook computer tablets to be sold in the first quarter and a total of two million over 12 months. But it's "absolutely critical" that RIM get its upcoming new BlackBerry smartphones to market without any problems.

The Waterloo, Ont., company has said it will launch two new BlackBerry Bold smartphones with an updated operating system at the end of the summer. A new generation of BlackBerrys using the same operating system as the PlayBook tablet isn't expected to hit the market until early next year.

RIM said the majority of the faulty devices were still in stores and hadn't reached customers. The recall affected the 16-gigabyte version of the PlayBook.

RIM has faced criticism in recent months for being too slow to move into the highly competitive tablet market, where Apple Inc. has a stronghold with its iPad device.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold
+ 14.19 (13,391.35)	– 0.59¢ (102.65¢ US)	– $2.28 US ($97.37 US)	$4.223 US (– 2.3¢ US)	$1,490.60 US (– $3 US)

News in brief

Canada at risk in debt crisis

OTTAWA. Canada's fiscal advantage will go only so far in protecting the country against a global debt crisis, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney warns. The ratio of debt to gross domestic product in G7 countries is the highest since the Second World War, he says. While Canada is one of the few advanced economies whose debt-to-GDP is projected to fall, Canada could still be sideswiped, as it was in the 2008 recession. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Visitors spend princely sums

LONDON, ENGLAND. Shopkeepers in central London are celebrating after spending by international visitors during the royal wedding soared by 122 per cent, the biggest rise in two years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TMX bid is 'truly Canadian'

TORONTO. Maple Group — the Canadian consortium offering $3.6 billion for TMX Group — says its bid means there will be no job cuts and the operator of the Toronto Stock Exchange will remain publicly traded. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

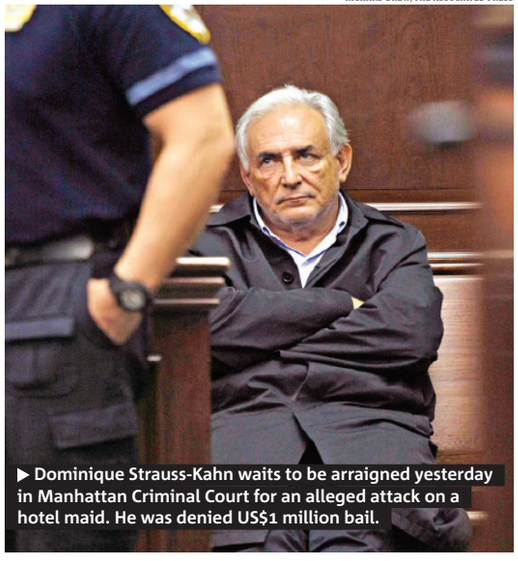
I know that you're really scared right now, but it's going to be all right. School will get really tough. However, the experiences will shape you into a stronger and better person.
Your friends and family love you and will always be here for you. They are your strongest supporters.
You are going to do great things in your life. Keep your chin up and be who you are.
Also, you turn out to be a smoking hottie!

Noel A. Scott
Producer,
Forest City Pride

'Like losing a ship's captain'

Arrest of IMF chief is a formidable loss as eurozone struggles with biggest crisis since its inception

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Dominique Strauss-Kahn waits to be arraigned yesterday in Manhattan Criminal Court for an alleged attack on a hotel maid. He was denied US$1 million bail.

The arrest of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, head of the International Monetary Fund, has added a layer of uncertainty to Europe's debt crisis as it removes a heavyweight financial expert from talks on how to save the 17-nation eurozone.

Strauss-Kahn, who was France's finance minister when the euro was created in 1999, is an authority on Europe's economic issues and a canny operator in its complex web of power politics. His experience is perceived to have been crucial as the currency union deals with the crisis.

"It's like losing an experienced ship's captain, while navigating particularly difficult, uncharted waters," said Jan Randolph, an analyst at IHS Global Insight.

However, the arrest won't affect this week's meeting of European finance ministers, who will sign off on Portugal's $108-billion bailout and discuss whether to give Greece more help beyond its current $152-billion rescue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charge sheet

- **Dominique Strauss-Kahn** was denied bail and ordered jailed in New York City yesterday.
- **He is accused of attacking** a maid who went in to clean his penthouse suite in the luxury Sofitel Hotel near Times Square.
- **He is charged with** attempted rape, sex abuse, a criminal sex act, unlawful imprisonment and forcible touching. The top count is punishable by five to 25 years in prison.

ZEN AND THE ART OF CLOSET MAINTENANCE

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

I have too many clothes. I know this for a number of reasons: the current balance in my chequing account, the fact that I can wear a different floral dress everyday for a 16-day period and, last week, all of the shelving in my walk-in closet collapsed.

Yes, the weight of my excessive shopping habit literally came crashing down on top of me — taking a significant amount of drywall with it in the process.

The untimely failure of my heavily burdened clothing rail forced me to do something I had been putting off for a while — edit my wardrobe. It took four painful hours to gather all my garments, make three piles (keep/garbage/donate) and then reassemble the keepers in a temporary shelving unit.

But once I did it I felt a rush of satisfaction. Here I was staring at a significantly smaller collection of clothes and, yet, I was thrilled about it. Goodbye, pilling cardigans; see ya, ironic graphic tees; sayonara, jeans I haven't fit into for three years! Once I said so long to all my obsolete outfits, I felt as if an enormous unfashionable weight had been lifted off my shoulders.

"Paring down my belongings and de-cluttering my life has left me feeling surprisingly Zen about my previously cramped apartment."

I wanted more of this organizational high, so I went on a weeklong cleaning binge, banishing the piles of cheap tangled necklaces, the rusty frying pans that would surely poison me if I used them and the DVDs collecting dust in an era of iTunes. Once I started, I couldn't stop.

In my youth my mother would roam around the kitchen shrieking "surfaces darling," mimicking Absolutely Fabulous diva Edina Monsoon. "I just want SURFACES, darling. I don't want this, look, I don't want this. I don't want THINGS on PLACES like that."

And that's the point. I don't want things on places; I want to purge all the unnecessary bits and pieces until I am left with clean countertops, smooth bed linens, books tucked away on shelves, coats hung in closets, hats upon racks and so forth.

It seems the advertisers have been lying to us all along — less stuff actually equals more happiness. Paring down my belongings and de-cluttering my life has left me feeling surprisingly Zen about my previously cramped apartment.

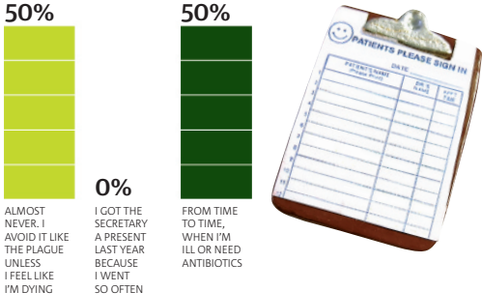
I have become an anti-hoarder and I want to spread the gospel of minimalist living to you, dear reader. You must be ruthless with your sentimental knick-knacks; take a hard look inside those crowded cupboards and overflowing drawers, and you will realize that most of those trinkets and tchotchkes you have collected over the years aren't keepsakes — they're actually just crap.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

metro life panel

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

How often do you go to the doctor?



Local tweets

- **@jindi:** spotted in one day: uggs in gastown, a louis vuitton handbag on main street. is nowhere sacred or immune #vancouver? #insidious #fb
- **@VancityBuzz:** #Vancouver you better recognize that @HollyConway coined the hashtag #NoWayJose #originator!!
- **@emilyc604:** am excited for the sun and summer to hit #vancouver ... Oh hopefully soon ... my iPhone says sun this week! Which makes me a happy gal!
- **@TallyCola:** Now that @lotusvenues is gone, where to go for good electronic music on a Saturday night in #Vancouver? #yvr
- **@RRRRKKKKk:** the more i hear Nemi outplayed Luo the more i see people forgetting Nemi's mistake #Vancouver #Canucks
- **@DanHaves:** Strange question, but does anyone know where you can buy novelty keychains in #YVR?
- **@wilsons618:** *raises hand* #HatersGonnaHate RT @transcendwebs: Any other #Canucks fans tired of Luongo haters? To me the W is all that matters.

Worth mentioning

BRUSSELS, Belgium. The Iberian lynx that prowls the grasslands of southern Spain. The Mediterranean monk seal swimming in waters off Greece and Turkey. The Bavarian pine vole that forages in the high meadows of the Alps.

These are among hundreds of European animal species — up to one-quarter of the total native to the continent — that are threatened with extinction according to a warning issued this month by the European Union.

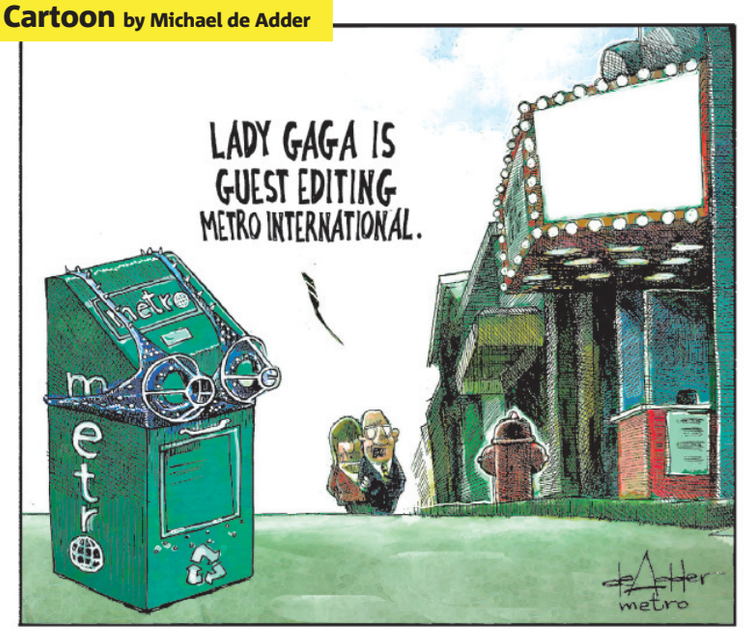
The threatened species include mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and butterflies. Plant life is under threat as well. The crisis is due to several factors, including loss of habitat, pollution, alien species encroachment, climate change and overfishing.

Critics say the EU's proposed solutions don't go far enough and lack funding.

"Life is possible because of biodiversity," said Ana Nieto, with the International Union for Conservation of Nature. "Everything comes from biodiversity. Everything comes from having well-functioning ecosystems."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Oprah trumps U.S. justice system

The fervour over Oprah Winfrey's final season has even hit U.S. federal court — again.

A potential juror in the trial of a Chicago businessman accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks has been given permission to miss a day of jury questioning to attend a taping of The Oprah Winfrey Show. It's Winfrey's last season, and some final episodes are being taped at Chicago's United Center.

The juror was one of nearly 100 in court yesterday for Tahawwur Rana's trial. Rana's attorneys took the matter in stride, calling it a big Chicago event.

Last month in another federal trial, a judge in ex-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's corruption trial dismissed a juror who had tickets to Winfrey's show and was worried jury duty would force her to miss it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fox hopes Cowell is a ratings X-Factor

American network unveils fall TV schedule ◗ America's Most Wanted cut, while new Spielberg prehistoric drama Terra Nova gets green light

Fox is cancelling America's Most Wanted, the Saturday night show that has profiled criminals on the lam since 1988, and replacing it on the network's regular schedule with reruns.

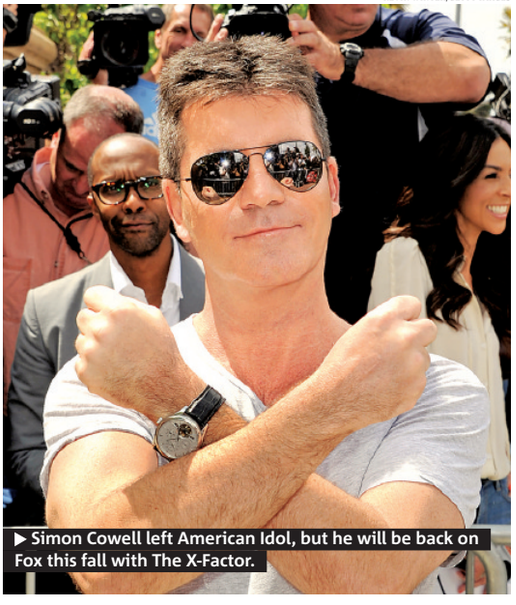
The network, as part of its new season schedule announcement yesterday, said it will introduce eight new series next year. They include Simon Cowell's talent show The X Factor, which was given time slots in the fall similar to American Idol.

Fox said it would do four, two-hour America's Most Wanted specials next season, but it will no longer be a regular fixture on the network schedule. The series, hosted by John Walsh, debuted in April 1988 and has been on Fox's Saturday night schedule since 1994.

"We have not made money on the show for a while," said Kevin Reilly, Fox's entertainment president. "It was economically getting to the place where it was not viable anymore, but we wanted to keep the concept alive."

Fox is excited about Cowell's return, following his exit as an American Idol judge last year. The X Factor has Cowell, Paula Abdul, Antonio "L.A." Reid and Cheryl Cole as judges, and has 90 minutes in prime time on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Simon Cowell left American Idol, but he will be back on Fox this fall with The X-Factor.

"There's an excitement and a buzz around the show that we've never seen before," said Peter Rice, Fox network chairman, noting that The X Factor drew more people to its auditions than Idol ever has.

If the show is a success it could be a game-changer for Fox, which has suffered in the ratings in the fall for years because American Idol doesn't begin until January.

Actress Zooey Deschanel will star in a new Fox comedy this fall tentatively titled New Girl. She plays a woman in her late 20s who moves in with three single guys after a bad breakup.

Another new Fox comedy, I Hate My Teenage Daughter, features Jaime Pressly and Katie Finneran playing single moms to teen-age daughters, realizing the girls are exactly like the kids that once tormented them in high school.

Fox's new series also include the long-awaited debut of Terra Nova, Steven Spielberg's drama that sends a futuristic family back to prehistoric times.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schedule

Fox's schedule for the upcoming fall TV season.

- **Monday:**
  8 p.m. - Terra Nova
  9 p.m. - House
- **Tuesday:**
  8 p.m. - Glee
  9 p.m. - New Girl
  9:30 p.m. - Raising Hope
- **Wednesday**
  8 p.m. - The X Factor
  9:30 p.m. - I Hate My Teenage Daughter
- **Thursday**
  8 p.m. - The X Factor
  9 p.m. - Bones
- **Friday**
  8 p.m. - Kitchen Nightmares
  9 p.m. - Fringe
- **Saturday**
  8 p.m. - COPS
  8:30 p.m. - COPS
- **Sunday**
  7 p.m. - The OT
  7:30 p.m. - The Cleveland Show
  8 p.m. - The Simpsons
  8:30 p.m. - Allen Gregory
  9 p.m. - Family Guy
  9:30 p.m. - American Dad

LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

I would tell my 15-year-old self that it will always be hard. When you graduate you leave a homophobic high school and enter a homophobic world. But in that hate there is a choice, either be yourself or hide. And if you DARE to be yourself know that it will be tough. But in that difficulty, there will be opportunity ... an opportunity to change the world by being yourself.
Jeremy Dias, Founder & Executive Director of Jer's Vision

I would strongly advise my 15-year-old self to START NOW! Start being your true self, be a leader: speak, live and love loudly! Celebrate who you are and others will too (at least those who really matter). Also, the fact that you're gay is but one part of you — nurture that side of you as you do the others, and be balanced. I would say,
Ryan MacGrath, Canadian Singer/Songwriter

2 scene

Scene in brief

Famously private Penelope Cruz reveals her overwhelming feelings as a new mother in the June issue of Vogue magazine. Cruz begins to cry when talking about her son, Leonardo. She says she felt love for her baby "from the first second" he was born in January.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Getting personal: Memoir by talk show host Ricki Lake coming in 2012 when new show launches. Scan code for story.

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Celebrity tweets

"I think I just tushie-tweeted by mistake! :) sorry!"

@jimmyfallon

"My date showed up in high heels and a spray tan. When I stood next to her, I looked like a small pale ghost boy."

@oliviawilde

"in a thousand years archeologists will dig up tanning beds and think we fried people as punishment."

▶ Angelina Jolie

Angie's kids know they're adopted

With three of her six children having been adopted, it's no surprise that Angelina Jolie is extremely open about the topic at home. "The words adoption, birth mothers [and] orphanages are happy words in our household, and we talk about those subjects all the time," she says, according to People magazine. "Life is very much about family and the family you choose. You can define your own destiny despite what happened to you in the past." METRO

Aniston's dad: She just needs a good Greek man

Wants to see her go back to her family roots

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jennifer Aniston

Jennifer Aniston is getting no shortage of dating advice — even at home. The actress' dad, John Aniston, thinks that the former Friends star should get back to her roots with a fellow Greek, according to People magazine. "I would be glad about that," says John, who was born Yannis Anastassakis in Crete, adding that the beau would have to be a "good Greek man." And what does that entail? "Honesty," he says.

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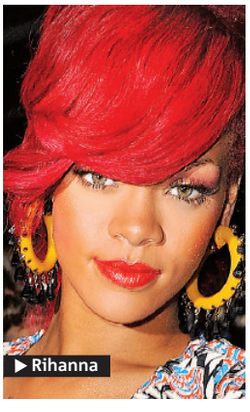

▶ Rihanna

Fans worry for Rihanna

Fans are in an uproar with Rihanna for following ex-boyfriend Chris Brown on Twitter, according to E! Online. And with Brown also following Rihanna's feed, some fans worry a reconciliation is in the works.

"I never thought you would go back to him! You better not," one fan posted.

But the singer insists it doesn't mean anything. "Its f—ing Twitter, not the alter! Calm down," Rihanna tweeted.

METRO

Talking points

Lindsay says she's sober for good

PEOPLE. Lindsay Lohan is reportedly serious about turning her life around and has told friends she's through with drugs, alcohol and breaking the law for good, according to TMZ.

The troubled starlet reportedly had an epiphany after her most recent sentencing for violating her probation and allegedly stealing a necklace from a jewelry store.

Lohan is currently serving out her community service sentence by working at a women's shelter in Los Angeles.

METRO

No Tony, no problem

BROADWAY. Although his second time leading a show on Broadway didn't result in a Tony nomination, Daniel Radcliffe doesn't consider it a snub, according to the Wall Street Journal.

"It's such a competitive year, particularly in that category," says the Harry Potter star, who is currently starring in a revival of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.

"It's amazing to me that I'm talked about in those circles, that people think I belong in that company."

METRO

ISTOCK PHOTO

▶ Get outside and get back to nature with some activities like yoga and jogging.

Spring clean the body

As Canadians prepare to clear out the garage, they should consider doing a detox of their bodies, too Everything from soups to herbal teas can help rid the body of the winter waste

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Spring. The trees and flowers are swelling with new growth and blossoms. It's time for rebirth. What about your body?

If you're looking for a spring cleanse, take the advice of Ann Lawrence, a doctor of naturopathy at Dragonfly Family Health Centre in Ottawa.

"Drink lots of water and stay away from smoking, alcohol, coffee, dairy, chocolate and sugar as these aggravate the health of nearly everyone," she says.

Eat a lighter diet concentrating on soup broths, brown rice and loads of vegetables, especially leafy greens and sprouts as they help the liver to cleanse. Probiotics help with intestinal health.

Lawrence makes a detox tea consisting of dandelion root, burdock root, milk thistle seed and stinging nettle. You can find a similar blend at many of the tea shops that are springing up. Flavour your cleansing tea with ginger, lemon, peppermint or cinnamon.

"There is healing power in being among trees."
ANN LAWRENCE

Cleaning up your act doesn't just mean eating better. It also involves sleeping better and getting active. Lawrence suggests getting to bed by 10 p.m. if possible, as the hours of sleep before midnight are very important for the body's renewal.

Exercise regularly – daily, if possible.

"Get outside and be in touch with nature. There is healing power in being among trees. We all need that connection to the earth and nature to rejuvenate us," says Lawrence.

As part of spring cleansing, hang out and enjoy time with friends and laugh. Learn relaxation techniques such as yoga.

"Simplify your life by deciding what is a priority. Find endeavours that support you rather than draining you," she suggests.

3 life

HAART

A low supply of some cancer drugs is a concern for hospital pharmacies, the Canadian Pharmacists Association says. Hospital pharmacies are keeping a careful eye on certain cancer drugs that are in short supply, hoping to ensure that Canadians don't face delays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Treating HIV patients earlier lowers chances of spreading the virus, which is a key to prevention

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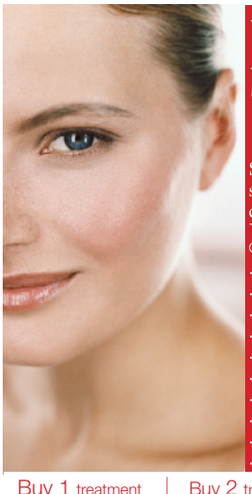

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Weather

While opinion may be divided allergists are issuing warnings.

- **Warning** The highest tree pollen count in three years triggered a dangerous air quality warning Friday in Chicago, where allergist Dr. Joseph Leija warned in a statement that those with sensitive respiratory systems should be cautious.
- **More warnings** In Los Angeles, rain, a heat wave and the Santa Ana winds combined for a brutal stretch in February. To the north in San Jose, pollen counts are on the rise with the start of grass season, allergist Dr. Alan Heller said Friday. The U.S. National Allergy Bureau shows high pollen counts in the Northeast this week, including Albany and New York City, with their birch, oak and maple trees, and Oxford, Ala., where walnut, pine and willows are in bloom.

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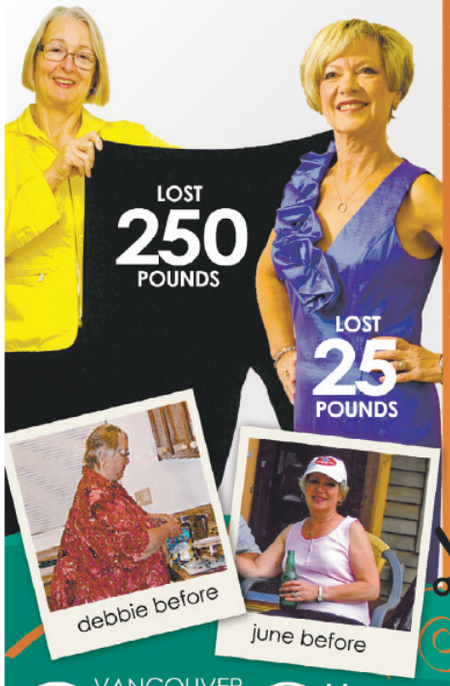

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Allergy sufferers take another hit

Allergy season is lasting a whole lot longer as the latest heavy rainfall is boosting pollen and mould

DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There may be a whiff of truth to claims by allergy sufferers who sniffle that this season is, well, a bigger headache than years past.

And now, more bad news: It's also lasting longer, prolonging the misery of the millions of people for whom spring is a punishment, not a pleasure.

Heavy snow and rain in some parts have nourished a profusion of tree pollen, while a sudden shift to warm, sunny weather has made its release more robust. The deluges and, in some places, flooding, have pumped up the volume on mould. Add in the wind, and the suffering skyrockets. Warnings about the difficult season have come from allergy specialists from across North America. Dr. Stanley Schwartz hears horror stories from patients all the time — every year, in fact, he noted with a wry smile.

"Literally, every year is the worst year," said Schwartz, chief of allergy and rheumatology for Kaleida Health and the University at Buffalo. "Now it may actually be, but when it's there and you're feeling it, you don't remember what last year was like."

What is certain is that allergy seasons in general have been getting longer and more challenging, said Angel Waldron, spokeswoman for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation.

"We do know that climate change and warmer temperatures are allowing trees to pollinate longer than usual," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Looking out for youth

Website's goal is to promote a Gay-Straight Alliance in schools

ALEX DUFFY
EGALECANADA
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ISTOCK

▶ MyGSA.ca can be a good source of information for LGBTQ youth.

While LGBTQ youth face many of the same pressures and confusions that most adolescents face in coming to terms with their transitioning bodies and academic and social stresses, they often must do so while negotiating a mammoth part of their identity.

Many questions can arise, including, how can I deal with this, how can I help make it better and where do I even start?

A good starting point is MyGSA.ca, the national LGBTQ safer schools and inclusive education website. It is the first and only national resource dedicated to helping LGBTQ youth.

It was developed to help create safer and more inclusive schools through the elimination of homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia, and the integration of LGBTQ matters.

The "GSA" part of the web address stands for Gay-Straight Alliance and refers to a student-led group or club where LGBTQ youth, youth with LGBTQ family members, and their allies can meet to tackle tough issues like discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

MyGSA.ca is a virtual place for all Canadians to come together to share experiences, stories, struggles and triumphs. The site is the hub of the Safe Schools Campaign by the LGBTQ human rights charity, the Egale Canada Human Rights Trust.

On the site, you'll find a variety of information and resources that you can use or pass along to the youth and educators in your life.

There are simple and informative postcards as well as comprehensive resource guides and step-by-step instructions to setting up a GSA at your local school. You'll also find examples of the many schools in Canada where students and educators alike are hard at work to make it better for all of us.

Indeed, since its launch just one year ago, 150 GSAs from every province in the country have registered on the site, each one viewable on the online GSA directory.

Take a look and see if your local school has a GSA — if not, why not?

LADY GAGA

'Seek out support'

Metro: What advice would you give to a young lesbian, gay or transgendered Canadian struggling at home or at school to discover him or herself — and his or her place in the world.

Const. Lynn MacDonald: The advice I would give to youth is to seek out support as soon as possible. They are not alone and there are some really great resources out there. Call the Kids Help Phone if they need someone to talk with. Check out the local LGBTQ resource centres in their area and look for youth support groups, counselling, etc. For kids that are struggling with their sexuality and faith, check online for organizations in their area that celebrate faith in an inviting and welcoming environment for LGBTQ people. I know that we tell our kids to hang on that it will get better but the reality is they shouldn't have to wait for it to get better. They don't deserve to be abused and we need to make the harassment and assaults stop. We need to hold the people who are doing it accountable. This can be tough for kids that aren't out so it is important for us as adults to step up and hold people accountable. We need to be the voice for our youth when they are not strong enough to stand up for themselves.

CONST. LYNN MACDONALD
CALGARY POLICE SERVICE
DIVERSITY RESOURCES UNIT

WHO SAID SKYPE CAN'T HELP FOSTER LOVE?

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Richard's love for Oanh led him to become a permanent Canadian resident.

Names:
Richard, 34, and Oanh, 30

Hometown:
Coquitlam, B.C.

Together since:
2009

Their story:

I (Richard) met Oanh while I was travelling around the world in 2008. I was passing through Vancouver, and a mutual friend asked Oanh to show me around town while I was there. When we met, I instantly felt a connection to her.

However, our friend had made me promise not to make any moves on Oanh, so I sadly left her behind and continued with my travels, making my way homeward to Scotland.

We kept in contact by email. When I moved to South Korea to be a teacher later that year, we began Skyping and our friendship and feelings for one another grew. We both knew we wanted to be together, but distance made that impossible. In April 2009, 15 months after we first met, we flew to the U.K. from opposite sides of the world for a short holiday. It was there that we shared our first kiss. I had to return to Korea, but we decided then and there that I would come to live with Oanh in Canada after my teaching contract finished.

I am now a permanent Canadian resident, and we can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together!

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The ultra chic Pink Elephant spices things up

This new Thai eatery is the Thai House Restaurant Group's sixth concept

LUNCH RUSH

ERIN IRELAND
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Hot pink seating, chandeliers reminisent of artist Dale Chihuly's work, and lofty ceilings.

Alberni Street's new ultra modern Thai restaurant had me feeling as though I were in Miami.

Pink Elephant, boasting an 88-seat dining room, is the Thai House Restaurant Group's sixth concept.

An endearing welcome, including a 'thank you for coming' bow, kicked off the lunch.

My small Pellegrino bottle arrived in an ice-filled carafe, further hinting at good service ahead.

A small, fragrant bowl of Hot and Sour Soup ($5) arrived within five minutes of ordering. The Keang Dang curry ($12) — an ideal meal for hasty diners — came shortly afterwards.

Two centimeter-thick slabs of skin-on black cod — topping an awfully soft bed of noodly rice rolls — swam in a heavy, spicy red curry with green peppers and bamboo.

The menu is lengthy and the food reminiscent of other Thai House Restaurnt Group's eateries.

If you're craving Thai food, Pink Elephant can do the trick.

Pink Elephant Thai

1152 Alberni St.
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pinkelephantthai.com
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ERIN IRELAND

▶ Keang Dang Curry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ HO

Avocado Lemon Wrap

For a creamy, crunchy and tangy sandwich that's all rolled up to go, make this nutrition-packed Avocado Lemon wrap.

It can be packed in school lunches or served as a tasty snack.

Preparation:

1 Core and julienne apple. Pit avocado and slice lengthwise. Dividing evenly, spread apple and avocado on each wrap.

2 Top with lettuce, then tuna. Roll up, then slice to make 3 pinwheels per wrap.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CLOVER LEAF

Ingredients:

- 1/2 Granny Smith apple
- 1/2 avocado
- 2 20-cm (8-inch) whole-wheat tortillas
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) shredded iceberg lettuce
- 2 cans flaked light tuna with lemon pepper

FEELING THE GAS SQUEEZE?

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Gasoline prices are raging upwards as the price of oil remains high and summer driving season demand increases.

If your budget is getting squeezed, get smart with your fuel consumption.

Ensure your vehicle is well maintained; regular oil changes and the right tire pressure.

Plan your travel in advance, avoid peak travel times to reduce idling and take the shortest route. If you're travelling long distances, drive the speed limit and use cruise control.

When your speed is constant and within the limit, you'll use less fuel and avoid expensive traffic tickets. Reduce clutter or unnecessary weight in your car and consolidate your errands into one trip.

To find the most affordable fuel in your area, check out sites like gasbuddy.com or gasticker.com. You can also use smartphone apps that track local prices.

Consider alternative forms of transportation. This past weekend, rather than driving, I pulled out my bicycle, filled the tires with air and rode 35 minutes to meet friends for coffee. I saved money on fuel and got my daily exercise.

Try walking, running, biking, blading, car pooling or public transit to get to your destination.

If you're in the market for a new vehicle, consider one that's fuel efficient or uses an alternative fuel like natural gas or a hybrid. When you cut back on your fuel consumption you'll save money and reduce your emissions.

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A lot of us feel like math dummies

ISTOCK

▶ Some Canadians are experiencing challenges in socking away funds for a rainy day, according to a recent survey.

Most Canadians lack confidence and skills when it comes to math and money matters, according to a new survey released last week.

The online poll, conducted on behalf of ABC Life Literacy Canada, found 79 per cent of Canadians aren't fully confident in their ability to teach another person about money, saving and budgeting.

The Ipsos Reid survey found six in 10 Canadians say they can use help with their financial management skills, including 73 per cent of those aged 18 to 34.

The survey found 38 per cent aren't putting any money into long-term savings on a monthly basis, while 36 per cent are putting away $200 or less a month.

Those with less education are much less likely to be comfortable that they have the skills needed to secure a financial future, said Sean Simpson, associate vice-president with Ipsos Reid.

"Overall, what we're finding is there is in general a lack of understanding, of familiarity, among many Canadians when it comes to some key financial terms and when it comes down to it in their own beliefs and capabilities to plan for a secure future," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cash confusion

Simpson said there may be a number of factors as to why there appears to be a financial knowledge gap, notably among those under 35.

- It could simply be they don't have money, or are uncertain of how much or how to save, he said.

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4 sports

Calm squad

Canucks have improved their composure for the playoffs

A team can sign talent and draft skill, but composure is something that must be learned.

The Vancouver Canucks made themselves better this year by improving their defence and adding depth on their third line. But patience and confidence are the biggest reasons Vancouver overcame a 2-1 deficit to defeat the San Jose Sharks 3-2 in the opening game of the Western Conference final.

In past years the Canucks might have panicked. The team could have turned into a bunch of individuals trying to do too much.

Not this group.

"We don't really overreact or lose our composure at any point of the game," forward Alex Burrows said after the Canucks practised at Rogers Arena yesterday.

"We just stick with it. I think we got better as the year went on, sticking with the process and sticking with the 60-minute plan. If it has to take 55 or 59 minutes to get it done, we are willing to wait instead of forcing things. It has to do with maturity and more experience."

The Canucks will get a chance to extend their lead when Game 2 is played tomorrow (CBC, 6 p.m.). The best-of-seven series will return to San Jose for games Friday and Sunday afternoon.

"You learn from experience. We don't get too high or too low."
DEFENCEMAN CHRISTIAN EHRHOFF

The Canucks know the Sharks desperately want to avoid going down 2-0 in the series.

"There is no doubt there is going to be a real good push back," said speedy forward Mason Raymond. "We won Game 1. We are happy about how we finished that one.

"They are going to come real hard. They have a great team. If we do the things that make us successful, then we are more concerned about the game we put on the ice."

Sharks forward Logan Couture said San Jose will be a much better team than the one that gave up two third-period goals in 79 seconds Sunday night.

"There's four teams left and we didn't play like one of the best four teams last night," said Couture.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Injured Canuck Manny Malhotra, left, helps Maxim Lapierre work on faceoffs yesterday.

Quoted

"We treated every game in the regular season as a playoff game. That's how you get ready for playoffs. We were up a lot of games during the regular season, so we got a lot of practice at that. We were also down so we were able to come back."
CANUCKS FORWARD DANIEL SEDIN

Scan code for more sports news.

It's not easy being green

The Green Men dish on the ups and downs of being bodysuit-clad superfans.

The Green Men have made a second career out of dressing in lime-green bodysuits and taunting opposing hockey players in the penalty box during Vancouver Canuck games at Rogers Arena.

The pair — who go by Force and Sully — have become local heroes. They have been interviewed by CBC, TSN and ESPN and have fans following them on Facebook and Twitter.

"This was supposed to be a one-night goof sort of thing," said Sully. "We were going to throw on some suits, make idiots of ourselves, get the crowd into the game."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suiting up

The pair struggle into their outfits at a parking lot across the street from the arena.

"It's kind of a shuffle," said Force.

"It's one zipper up the back. You have to be nimble."

No drinks

Forget using the bathroom, says Force.

"You can't drink before the game because if you have to go to the washroom it's a complicated process. By the time the game is over I am so dehydrated and so hungry."

Credit crunch

The Green Men attended four regular-season games this year and four home playoff games. They are not sure how many more they can afford.

"The Visa is getting maxed out," said Force.

Job prospects

Force and Sully have just finished journalism school and are trying to break into the media business.

"The less our (real) names are out there, the less we are butchering" our careers, said Force.

Some limits

They would go to Tampa, but not Boston.

"I did an interview with ESPN Boston the other day," said Force. "They said do not come to Boston in those green suits. You will be killed. We're not going to Boston."

No time for Canucks to rest on laurels

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Everything is rosy for the Vancouver Canucks right now.

They slayed the Chicago Blackhawks; they got over the second-round hurdle; Ryan Kesler is playing like a Conn Smythe candidate; and they hold a 1-0 series lead in the Western Conference final.

But this isn't the time to start taking anyone lightly — especially the 2010-11 version of the San Jose Sharks.

Not that the Canucks will start looking ahead to a lopsided-on-paper matchup with some poor Eastern Conference foe or intentionally lay back to enter the Cup final with full health, but even the best teams can slip into a malaise.

The Sharks, for years regarded as a complete and utter playoff bust, are a different beast this time around. They've shown some seriously thick skin and heart, from turning a 4-0 deficit into a win against the Kings, to killing off a five-minute major in overtime that allowed Joe Thornton to score the first-round series-winner, to coming out with a strong team effort in a Game 7 win against Detroit that was the biggest 60 minutes in San Jose Sharks history. These guys are for real.

If the Canucks think going up 1-0, or even 2-0, signals the beginning of the end to this series, they are terribly mistaken.

This is the first time San Jose has trailed a series in these playoffs, though, so you can argue this is going to be the biggest test of their mettle yet. But since Joe Thornton, Ryane Clowe, Logan Couture and, at some crucial moments, Patrick Marleau have come through for this team, the potential six more games ahead will be a marathon.

What the Canucks certainly have going for them — aside from two Hart Trophy-worthy brothers, a Conn Smythe candidate and a Vezina finalist — is the fact they beat Antti Niemi when he was on his game. The defending Stanley Cup-winning goalie has yet to lose a series in his young career, but he is prone to imploding at any given moment. He has already been pulled a couple times this post-season and has allowed four goals on four different occasions, but he's also been great, namely at the very beginning and very end of the Detroit series.

You know Niemi will have his strong games, but you can also count on him becoming a sieve somewhere along the line. He was certainly on his game when he made 35 saves against Vancouver in Game 1 and nearly stole the opener, so if the Canucks can get to him even when he is at his best, they'll gain the upper hand in this series when Niemi decides to take a night off.

But to rest on Game 1 and wait for Niemi's meltdown would be a big mistake. If you give these Sharks an inch they'll take a mile and drop you off in a ditch on their way along the Stanley Cup road.

These Sharks aren't the built-to-fail versions we've become accustomed to. These Sharks are true Stanley Cup contenders.

Sharks can't close deal

San Jose says winning the puck battles is the cure to their recent third-period collapses

If the San Jose Sharks were used car salesmen working on commission, they'd be cashing pretty thin paycheques these days.

Whether it's the Detroit Red Wings in the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs or the Vancouver Canucks in the Western Conference final, they've had trouble closing the deal.

Third periods have been their nemesis and Sunday's 3-2 series-opening loss to the Canucks was no different.

They've either entered a third period with the lead or been tied while losing four of their last five games. They blew a 3-0 series advantage against Detroit before a nail-biting Game 7 victory.

"I don't feel uncomfortable with a lead, that's where I want to be," defenceman Dan Boyle said yesterday after Canuck goals 79 seconds apart forged Sunday's loss in the final 20 minutes.

"We've got to find a way to finish people off. I think maybe getting that next goal. With a one-goal lead you try to get the next goal without giving anything up."

But that's exactly what they did.

Kevin Bieksa tied the game in the third period with an uncontested 30-foot wrist shot. Henrik Sedin won it on the power play.

"We lost it, but we definitely had our 'B' game on display. We'd like to find our 'A' game again."
SHARKS COACH TODD MCLELLAN ON GAME 1

If that doesn't sound familiar, consider this:

In Game 4 against Detroit, the Sharks fell behind 3-0 in the first period and rallied to tie on Dany Heatley's goal 1:14 into the final 20 minutes, only to lose 4-3.

In Game 5 they took a 2-1 lead into the third period and Logan Couture made it 3-1. They lost 4-3, giving up two goals in less than two minutes.

Detroit forced a seventh game after Couture gave San Jose a 1-0 lead early in the third period of Game 6.

Goals 1:54 apart by Henrik Zetterberg and Valtteri Filppula sank the Sharks, who went on to lose 3-1.

"The good news is we had a 2-1 lead in the third period," coach Todd McLellan said of Sunday's defeat.

That means winning late-game puck battles.

"We were slow, we didn't get to the battles we needed to get to, and quite frankly when we got there we were out-battled," McLellan said. "That will have to change."

Skating was optional for the Sharks yesterday. Looking at video of those lost battles was not.

"I don't even think we've changed the style of play," said Couture, a rookie-of-the-year candidate who is tied for the team lead with six playoff goals after 32 in the regular season.

"Last night we just turned pucks over. We looked at some video this morning. We had so many turnovers in the third period and you can't do it against that team. They're too good."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ San Jose Shark Justin Braun skates during optional team practice yesterday.

Bergeron practices ahead of Game 2

Patrice Bergeron was back on the ice for full practice yesterday as the Boston Bruins prepared for Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

He has not played since suffering a concussion in Game 4 of Boston's sweep of the Philadelphia Flyers May 6. Coach Claude Julien would not comment on whether Bergeron would play in Game 2 tonight.

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JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ski jumper Taylor Henrich stands with her skis at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary last week.

A brand new day

Canadian women back on ski jumps after Olympic dreams were put on hold in 2010 Own the Podium doubles money for ski jumping in 2011-12

The Canadian women's ski jumping team has relaunched following the news that it will be included in the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The women have a new coach, new recruits, more money from Own the Podium and have invited the sport's pioneers to get back in the game. All that has happened in the few weeks since the International Olympic Committee approved the addition of the sport for 2014.

"We have more girls training with us now," said Taylor Henrich, 15. "I think it's become more competitive on the team."

"We're all fighting for spots to go to the Olympics now. It's a pretty demanding sport now. It's making me more motivated to be the best."
15-YEAR-OLD SKI JUMPER TAYLOR HENRICH

Ski Jumping Canada hosted recruitment camps in Calgary and, from the 150 who attended, chose a dozen girls between 12 and 15 to participate in dryland training this summer.

"If you are of slight build you may have trouble competing in downhill, and ski jumping would be a perfect area for you, if you have the mindset to throw yourself off a ski jump at 90 kilometres per hour," said Brent Morrice, chairman of Ski Jumping Canada.

Girls from Calgary were recruited because it's the only city in Canada with the small developmental jumps required to teach the sport.

Ted Bafia, who revived the men's program and got Canadian men jumping in the Olympics again, is now at the helm of the women's squad.

"The girls we're getting now are very young," Bafia said. "It takes many years to develop them. It's not a short process, but we need to start now."

Own the Podium, which awards federal government money to sport federations based on medal potential, has more than doubled the ski jumpers' allotment for the 2011-12 season. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

LADY TAFIA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

I would tell myself that the attraction I was feeling for my girlfriends would in the long run be who I am. That my parents would love me unconditionally and that no one that I cared about would turn their back on me. I would tell myself that the future is full of great times and a life filled with love. I would tell myself to be more confident in who I was and that people would love me for who I am. I would tell myself how great my life was going to be, how times would change and the world becomes more accepting and open as each year passes. I would tell myself to love with all my heart and not hold back ... In the end, love is what makes our life worth living.

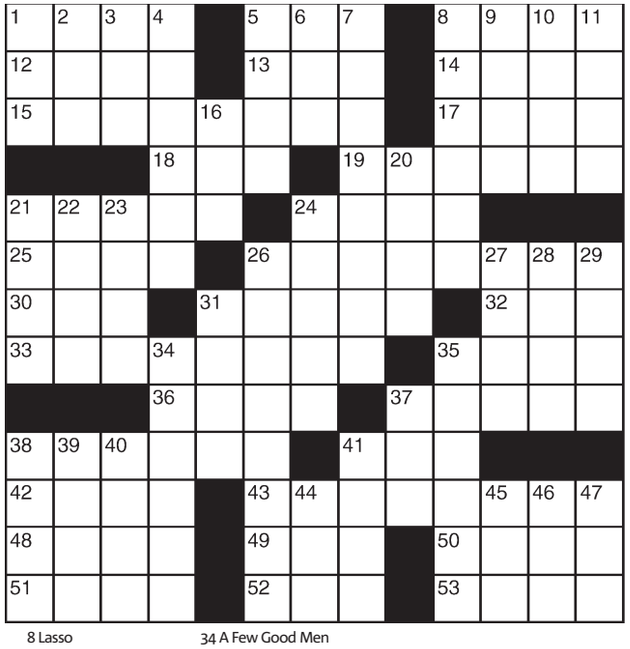
Lori Andrews, Canadian Rockies International Rodeo All Around Champion 2010

It is important to learn life lessons now and apply them to how you want to grow and develop. Absorb what you can from life and opportunities will come your way. Wait until you feel comfortable with yourself and have confidence in yourself before you come out. It is not wrong to mature and experience life knowing who and what you are and then come out when the time is right for you. Spend time building your confidence, educating yourself, your family and friends, and come out when it feels right for you.

I am glad I followed the path I did and experienced all the things I did. I don't regret waiting to come out when I did because it was when I was supposed to. If I came out earlier, I might have lost life experiences that made me who I am today. Be confident about coming out and don't worry about coming out because it is never as bad as we anticipate. Those who love us will eventually come to terms with who we are and know that we are confident, loving and happy individuals.

Scott Woodruff, Canadian Rockies International Rodeo All Around Champion 2010

Crossword



Across

1 Harmonization, for short
5 Floral neckwear
8 Burden
12 Twosome
13 Charged bit
14 Competent
15 Obvious
17 React to yeast
18 Second person
19 Tabloid worker
21 Necktie alternative
24 Vicinity
25 Bank transaction
26 Hunger
30 Emeril's shout
31 Figure of speech
32 Extinct bird
33 OK
35 Weaponry
36 British school
37 Beginning
38 Crazy one
41 Have bills
42 Once more, collo-quially
43 Sweater decoration
48 Star Wars hero
49 Miler Sebastian
50 Pout
51 Lecherous look
52 Longing
53 Fill till full

Down

1 Resort
2 Puppy's call
3 Pinch
4 Colouring stick
5 Stead
6 A billion years
7 Crime-fighting group based in Lyon, France
8 Lasso
9 Final notice
10 As well
11 Antelope's play-mate
16 Deteriorate
20 Consider
21 Actress Jessica
22 Laundry need
23 Bivouac
24 Pertaining to bees
26 Support of a cause
27 Don of radio
28 Color quality
29 Right on the map?
31 Tittle
34 A Few Good Men director
35 Layered rock
37 Hooter
38 Shoppers' mecca
39 Chills and fever
40 "Swoosh" company
41 Tournament format
44 "The Raven" writer
45 Sine — non
46 Last (Abbr.)
47 — out a living

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

1		6				2		4
	2		9		6		5	
5			4		3			8
		8	1		4	9		
		3	7		2	5		
2			8		9			3
	6		2		7		8	
3		9				7		5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	6	9	3	1	7	8	4	5
1	5	4	6	8	9	3	7	2
7	3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1
3	9	6	1	5	2	4	8	7
5	8	2	7	6	4	1	3	9
4	1	7	9	3	8	2	5	6
8	4	1	5	9	6	7	2	3
6	7	3	4	2	1	5	9	8
9	2	5	8	7	3	6	1	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

justice, boo boos i love you soooo much you are my everything i never want you to leave
From **LAURA**

Hoa, You are amazing in every way sweet, your eyes, your lips you are perfect and beautiful muahhhhhh-hhhhhhhhh
From **DOUBLE**

Marcus, have a great 33rd birthday today. I can't wait to celebrate it on the long weekend.
From **ROMO**

Natty-bear, Natalie, I love you more than you could possibly know, I just wish you knew how much I do. You are the sweetest most beautiful girl I have ever met in my short lifetime. I hope we get to spend a life-time and half together.
With love
From **JARE-BEAR**

Today 12°/6° Variable
Wednesday 14°/7° Partly cloudy
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Get your weather on the go with theweathernetwork.com
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Financial security and emotional security are not the same thing.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't be obsessive about events that are over and done with.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Live each new day as it comes. Never look back.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You will find yourself caught between rival viewpoints today

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Call it as you see it today, because if you say things merely to impress others in authority your efforts could come unstuck.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Once you understand the bigger meaning the little things will fall into place.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Make sure you know exactly what you are going to say before you open your mouth.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You don't take kindly to those who disagree with you.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Smile, don't frown – it suits you so much better.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 .
Avoid friends though if they get emotional.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
There may be a conflict between your home life and your work commitments.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20.
The more people tell you that you are neglecting your duties the more you can be certain that it is right to neglect them

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAPDTIMUR EMEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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